



Delaware Nutrient Management



Meeting Minutes-February 7, 2017

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission

In attendance:

Commission Members Present: Kenny Blessing, Lauren Hill, Brenna Goggin, Robert Palmer, Jim Elliott, Jessica Inhoff, Mark Adkins, Lisa McCormick, Kenny Bounds, William Vanderwende

Ex-Officios Present: Chris Brosch, Michael Scuse, Jennifer Singh, David Small

Commission Members Absent: Richard Sterling, Bud O'Neill, Scott Webb, Kenneth Horeis

Others Present: Bob Coleman, Clint Gill, Aaron Givens, Brooke Walls, Julia Moore, Garry Killmon, Eugene Maute, Gerhard Maute, Nathan Hudson, Sherie Hudson, Harvey O. Thomas Sr., Steve Szelestei, Sydney Riggi, Sally Kepfer, Jessica Collins

This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by law.

Call to Order/Welcome:

Chairman Vanderwende called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and reminded those seeking education credits to sign the sign-in sheet.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was heard to approve the minutes of the Full Commission Meeting of January 3, 2017. The minutes were approved by Jim Elliott and seconded by Laura Hill.

Discussion and Action Items:

Staff Update & Introductions –

- Chris Brosch introduced new Administrative Assistant II, Julia Moore, with a brief biography
- Chairman Vanderwende welcomed prior Cabinet Secretary Michael Scuse as Secretary of Agriculture under Governor Carney. He shared some welcoming remarks and noted that he has recommended that the DDA Nutrient Management Program is an outstanding program and should be used as a model for other states.
- Secretary Scuse in turn introduced Kenny Bounds as Deputy, sharing that he will be an asset due to his previous employment with Farm Credit and his poultry experience and contacts.

CAFO NMP – Chris Brosch

- No Application Poultry CAFOs Nutrient Management Plan:
 - In order to help quicken the certification process under this program, Chris Brosch recommended that a Pilot Program be approved to fund a cost-share offer of \$500.00 to assist those who would like to use certified consultants from the private sector to write their nutrient plan, since the Conservation District has a backlog at this time.
 - Discussion included:
 - Note that this may not cover the full cost of private sector.
 - Questions about where the funds would come from.
 - This will be retroactive under the discretion of the Administrator.
 - No more than 200 farms would be eligible at this time.
 - Motion to implement a Pilot Program for Cost-Sharing to cover funds for use of private sector writers was stated by Laura Hill and seconded by Jim Elliott. It included the clause that funding would be at the discretion of the Program Administrator. It was then amended by Laura Hill to include a recommendation

that the amount be capped at \$500.00 and seconded again by Jim Elliott. Motion was approved unanimously.

Administrators Report – Chris Brosch and staff

- Press Release regarding Poultry Award - Chris Brosch referenced the Delmarva Farmer's article that highlighted the Environmental Stewardship Award and the 2016 winners. He noted that there was also a copy of the Press Release in the lobby for anyone who wanted to read it.
- Complaints - Bob Coleman stated that he had received 3 complaints since the last meeting, and all had been closed. He has no other open complaints at this time. Kudos were provided by Mark Adkins.
- Certification - Chris Brosch noted that we reconciled about 1200 historically returned envelopes or letters regarding retirees, sold farms and lapsed certifications.
- SalesForce update – Brooke Walls provided 2016 data:
 - 300 annual reports processed to date
 - About 100 responded that they are no longer farming, it's not pertinent, etc.
 - There were about 100 returns as non-deliverable
 - She is still refining the reports

Special Items

- Chris Brosch noted that he will be actively pursuing new members to fill the vacant seats, noting that there are 2 vacancies right now. He asked for recommendations.
 - Secretary Scuse advised that he met with the Boards & Commissions Coordinator earlier this day, and he would follow up with them because we do not know who in the Governor's office and Legislature have made appointments already.

Next Meeting: The next regular Full Commission meeting will be March 7, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment: Chairman Vanderwende adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Approved,

B. Vanderwende, Chairman
Delaware Nutrient Management Commission
jlm